Volunteer Firemen

MARCH

1942

NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
60 Batterymarch Street INTERNATIONAL Boston, Massachusetts

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Volunteer Firemen

Volume 9 Number 3

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CONTENTS
For March, 1942

	Page
Apparatus for Air Raid Fires	4
Uniform Air Raid Signals Announced by OCD	6
Auxiliary Firemen Protected Under Minnesota Compensation Laws	6
Nassau and Suffolk Counties of New York Plan Mutual Aid	6
Defense Notes	6
Recollections of Growing Pains	7
Fire in Hotel Under Construction, Washington, D. C.	7
Grass and Brush Fires Sabotage Fire Defense	8
Getting Over Fences Part of the Fire Fighting Job	10
New Texts	10
Fire Alarm Systems as Channels for Civilian Defense Messages	12
Rosedale, Pa., Firemen Have Unique Fire Location Indicator	13
Announcements	13
Pyrene Prize Letter Contest	14

THE cover picture this month (*International*) shows the former $60,000,000 luxury liner "Normandie," recently rechristened the U. S. Naval auxiliary "Lafayette," as she lay on her side at her North River berth in New York harbor following a five alarm fire which swept the huge vessel on February 9, 1942. Thus fire again has struck a major blow against America's war effort. This vessel, which as France's greatest luxury liner broke the speed record for an Atlantic crossing on its maiden voyage, was being converted for use as a troopship.

Preliminary reports indicate that the fire was not attributed to sabotage but to careless operation of an acetylene torch. If true, this would bear out the contention of most fire protection engineers that common fire hazards, not properly guarded against, present the greater danger to our war effort. Another view of the burning "Lafayette" will be found on page 6.

STATE Fire Marshal Stephen C. Garrity of Massachusetts last month informed all fire chiefs in the State that for the duration of the war he was rescinding their authority to issue permits governing the sale or use of fireworks. Fire chiefs were asked to instruct all dealers of fireworks to refrain from placing any orders for fireworks, as no permits will be issued by his office. Marshal Garrity is to be commended for initiating this public safety measure which will remove the needless fireworks hazard to life and property at this time. Last year the N.F.P.A. model fireworks law was defeated in the Massachusetts State Senate by a narrow margin.

A RECENT release by the U. S. Office of Civilian Defense explains what is meant by a "blackout" and an "air raid warning." A blackout is a precautionary darkening of lights which might aid hostile aircraft in locating targets. A blackout does not necessarily mean that there are enemy aircraft in the vicinity. Under a blackout it is expected that normal activities will continue except those which mean showing of lights.

An air raid warning, on the other hand, means that hostile or unidentified planes are close by. The public should at once seek shelter and preparations should be made within a few minutes for handling casualties and other damages likely to result from bombs. All air raid warnings include the alerting of the various elements of the Citizens' Defense Corps. At night, air raid warnings include a blackout.

PRIORITY assistance will not be granted for the construction of air raid shelters in the United States, it was announced January 25, by J. S. Knowlson, Director of the Division of Industry Operations, War Production Board, following a conference between WPB and OCD officials.

Subsequently, OCD issued the following statement: "The United States is fighting a war to keep enemies away from American shores. Steel and other scarce materials must be made into weapons to send to our own armed forces and to our allies on the fighting fronts. Steel in guns and tanks and ships is better protection than steel in American air raid shelters."

At the same conference it was agreed that by employing substitutes wherever they could be safely used, materials could be provided to fill OCD requirements for fire hose, protective helmets, boots made from reclaimed rubber, and protective clothing for civilian defense workers.

LAST month OPM further revised its rubber conservation orders. All use of rubber is limited to a definite percentage of the average amount of rubber used by each manufacturer during the period between April 1, 1940 and March 31, 1941. Manufacturers of fire hose and of washers, gaskets and tubing for fire fighting equipment may obtain rubber up to 180% of their average monthly consumption during the above period. This is the highest quota allotted to any of the items listed in the order.

DIRECTOR James M. Landis of the U. S. Office of Civilian Defense has announced that the Chemical Warfare School at Edgewood Arsenal which has been training firemen and policemen would be supplemented by six regional schools. Persons holding positions of responsibility in the state defense organizations will be invited to attend these schools along with an additional force of workers to be recruited through the American Legion. In addition, a program of statewide schools providing a minimum of ten days' training for American Legion personnel is planned for each state.

LAST month twelve departments with 130 men joined the Volunteer Firemen's Section for the first time. Ninety-one departments with 2,005 men renewed membership. This makes a total enrollment of 730 departments and 14,833 men. The following departments are newly enrolled:

Remington Arms Fire Department, "C" Platoon, Denver, Colorado.
DeLand Fire Department, DeLand, Florida.
Villisca Fire Department, Villisca, Iowa.
Clovis Fire Department, Clovis, New Mexico.
Sherman Fire Department, Inc., Sherman, New York.
Put-in-Bay Volunteer Fire Company, Put-in-Bay, Ohio.
Junior Fire Department, Sebring, Ohio.
Willamina Fire Department, Willamina, Oregon.
Glen Rock Hose and Ladder Company, Glen Rock, Pennsylvania.
Colfax Fire Department, Colfax, Washington.
Delafield Volunteer Fire Department, Delafield, Wisconsin.
The De Havilland Aircraft of Canada, Ltd., West Toronto, Ontario.

THE following table shows the fire losses for each month in 1941 compared with the loss for this past January. These loss figures are reported by the National Board of Fire Underwriters and are based on notices of incurred loss received by insurance companies, members of the board, plus an allowance for unreported and uninsured losses.

	1941	1942
January	$26,470,000	$35,565,000
February	26,102,000	
March	31,471,000	
April	29,330,000	
May	25,637,000	
June	24,943,000	
July	23,698,000	
August	24,122,000	
September	24,668,000	
October	30,833,000	
November	23,822,000	
December	31,261,000	
Total 12 months	$322,357,000	

Apparatus for Air Raid Fires

FIRE APPARATUS, GAS MASKS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT PLANNED BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR DANGER AREAS

JAMES M. Landis, Director of the U. S. Office of Civilian Defense, announced last month that auxiliary fire fighting equipment, gas masks and other air raid protection equipment which may be furnished by the federal government will not have to be requisitioned by cities. It will be apportioned to cities in areas considered strategic by War and Navy Departments.

It is important for cities to understand this and not to confuse the program of the federal government to furnish auxiliary fire apparatus to certain cities with their own plans for buying fire apparatus for normal needs. If a city is going to receive any of this air raid protection equipment, it will be so notified, probably through its state defense council.

This announcement gives force and effect to the general advice which cities have been receiving not to neglect their own plans for providing fire apparatus. The best way for a city to get fire apparatus is still to order it from a regular fire apparatus manufacturer in the usual way. Last month the War Production Board took over the activities of the Office of Production Management. The OPM Division of Priorities had made every effort so that fire apparatus manufacturers may continue to produce fire apparatus for cities' normal needs.

A city is expected to apply for a priority rating on each order of apparatus and priority is assigned on the basis of the relative importance of each order. An A-10 rating or better puts the city on a basis similar to orders for Army and Navy or for shipment under lease-lend commitments.

The restrictions on copper, aluminum, zinc, special steels and the like in connection with fire apparatus have already been reported in VOLUNTEER FIREMEN. These restrictions result in minor modifications of usual parts of apparatus, but little of this affects fundamental good performance of the equipment. Service ladders, squad and salvage cars may no longer be built. Pumpers are limited to 500, 750 and 1,000 g.p.m. sizes.

There are enough difficulties in getting needed fire apparatus without cities making for themselves any unnecessary ones. For example, it has been pointed out in these columns before that one of the best ways to expedite delivery is not to ask for custom built features. Give the manufacturer the widest possible discretion in working out the details of the apparatus for the purpose you specify.

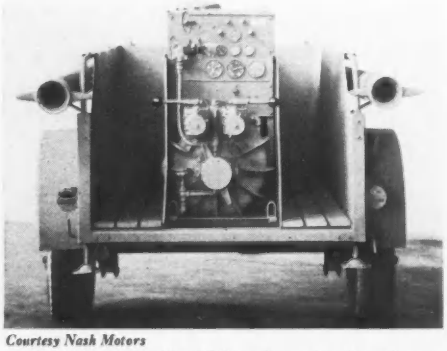
The War Production Board will probably ask just how important each particular order of fire apparatus may be. It is already apparent that WPB is going to consult OCD on practically all municipal fire apparatus orders. The way this will work out as a practical matter is that the regional office of OCD will ask for an opinion on the relative need of the apparatus from the state official charged with the responsibility for fire defense matters. This official is usually called the state fire coordinator.

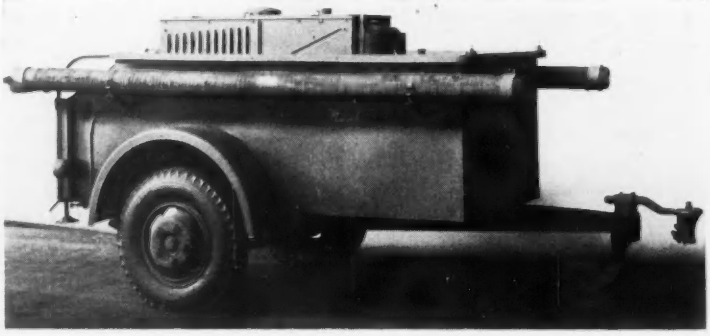
The routine to be followed is to clear orders for apparatus through the appropriate state official if there is one. This is so recent a development that the routine referred to is not yet established except in a few places. For example, in the State of New Hampshire, Governor Blood has instructed all local authorities to clear their needs for fire apparatus through A. C. Hudson, Chairman of the Auxiliary Firemen's Division of the New Hampshire State Council of Defense. To give force and effect to this request, the State Tax Commission will refuse to permit cities and towns to exceed their normal budgeted appropriations for fire equipment without the approval of Mr. Hudson.

These additional reviews and checks on orders for fire apparatus should actually have the effect of speeding up deliveries as they will enable a report to go into the War Production Board on each order that will clearly establish the need in a given case and allow orders to be assigned priorities, promptly.

TO deal with air raid fires, London installed approximately 25 pumper units for each one in service in the fire department before the war. American and Canadian fire departments have on the average twice as many pumper units as English fire departments had to begin with in cities of relative size. The potential frequency and intensity of air raids in North American cities is, of course, much less than in England which is close to enemy air bases. These and other less tangible factors had to be weighed to develop a formula on which could be based an estimate of U. S. cities' needs for auxiliary fire apparatus.

With the help of an Advisory Committee on Civilian Fire Defense, the U. S. Office of Civilian Defense announced last month that tentative allocations for auxiliary fire fighting equipment were being planned on the





Courtesy Nash Motors

Two views of a 500 GPM trailer unit offered by one manufacturer as meeting the outline of requirements of OCD for auxiliary pumpers. There is room on this trailer to carry 500-700 feet of 2½-inch hose, plus 300 feet of 1½-inch hose, in addition to a full complement of minor equipment. Trailer units include no ladders.

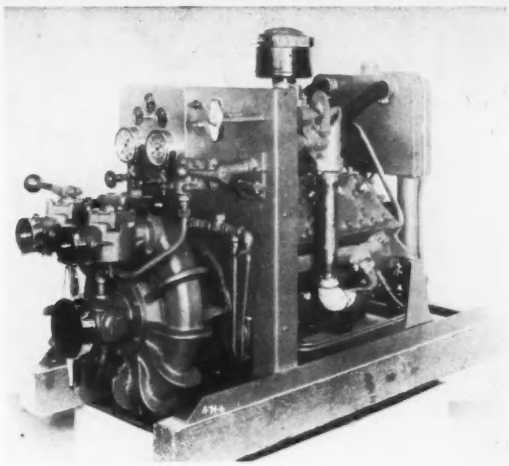
following basis: for cities 10,000 to 200,000 population, additional pumper unit for each one in service; in cities over 200,000 population, 2 additional pumper units for each one in service; an additional pumper unit for each existing pumper over 15 years old; smaller cities to be provided with additional pumpers in areas believed exposed to air raids. The above count is based on automobile pumpers. A part of the auxiliary apparatus may be pump units alone (without automobile chassis to go with them). One and one-half such units count the same as one automobile pumper unit in applying the formula.

The formula indicated for cities over 10,000 population alone, some 15,000 automobile pumpers, or about ten times as much automobile apparatus as the fire apparatus industry had ever built in a year, obviously represents a sizeable procurement problem.

The largest current buyer of fire apparatus is the U. S. Government which is equipping Army camps and other property. The Fire Protection Section of the Office of Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army, handles that procurement and was asked to plan to handle the OCD procurement program as well. Mr. W. W. Dean, Chief of this section, and his staff have undertaken to develop specifications in form for purchasers. This has meant many conferences with manufacturers and with priority officials since numerous modifications of usual practices are necessary because of restriction on use of metals, rubber, and other materials.

Last year the N.F.P.A. adopted tentatively minimum standards for auxiliary pumpers recommended by its Committee on Municipal Fire Apparatus. These standards called for 500 GPM capacity pumps and appropriate modifications of other standard requirements for fire apparatus. The preparation of federal specifications for auxiliary fire apparatus started with the general provisions of these specifications.

The Advisory Committee on Civilian Fire Defense of OCD has approved specifications for certain types of pump units and other apparatus. To date these include (1) a self-contained unit, centrifugal pump and direct-connected gasoline motor on skids, which may be mounted on a truck, trailer or boat, or used for pumping anywhere it may be carried, (2) a pump for front mounting on automobiles with motors of suitable speed characteristics, (3) a similar pump for side or cross-chassis mounting, (4) body assemblies which include the necessary small tools, pump tank extinguishers, ladders, suction hose and



Self-contained 500 GPM pump unit on skids, one type of pumping unit for auxiliary fire service to be provided under OCD plans. Pump is centrifugal, direct-driven by gasoline motor. These pump units will not be supplied alone, but will be complete with hose and accessories so that they may be effectively put into service. For each pump unit is provided suction equipment, 1,050 feet of 2½-inch hose and 450 feet of 1½-inch hose, nozzle sets, forcible entry and miscellaneous tools and other equipment usually carried on a pumper.

other equipment needed to make a complete piece of auxiliary apparatus, (5) various assemblies of pump units and body units on automobile chassis and trailers.

Just how many new automobile trucks or chassis will be available for auxiliary fire apparatus at the time the equipment is authorized is, of course, unpredictable. This is the reason why pump units separate from automobiles are on the above list. Cities will probably have to find some automobile chassis on which hose bodies, pumps and equipment can be mounted to provide auxiliary pumpers. OCD has under way a survey to find out the number of municipally-owned vehicles available and suitable for this purpose.

OCD has had a Fire Defense Section functioning since last September. This section has carried out a number of important activities, notably:

(a) Completion of a survey of existing fire apparatus in all cities 5,000 population and over.

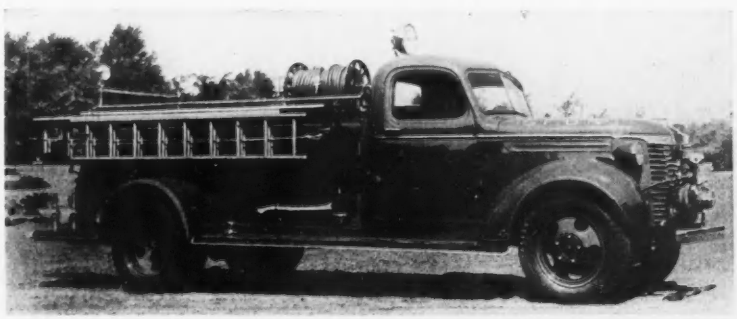
(b) A tentative plan of allocation of apparatus if and when available: territorial areas immediately threatened first, next for communities in a 300-mile coastal strip, and certain other target industrial areas throughout the country, then the rest of the country, rural areas being taken care of under a program still to be worked out.

(c) Adoption of single-jacketed cotton rubber-lined hose for auxiliary fire fighting in order to conserve material and production capacity of hose factories.

(d) A survey of thread sizes of hose couplings and hydrant outlets. This data is being tabulated for use in allocating and delivering hose for auxiliary fire companies.

(e) Outlining of certain model legislation needed, drafts of which are currently being prepared in cooperation with the Legal Department of the Office for Emergency Management, covering such phases of the fire defense program as fire defense organization at the state level, mutual aid operations, compensation of firemen for injuries and defining liabilities of communities for damage caused by auxiliary firemen.

The Advisory Committee on Civilian Fire Defense has also worked out a



One type of auxiliary pumper that may be produced in conformance with requirements outlined by OCD is an automobile stake body truck with a 500 GPM front-mounted pump. A piece of this type will be quite similar to the peace-time fire apparatus illustrated above except for lack of bright work and hose reel. Each automobile pumper will be provided with 1,400 feet of 2½-inch single-jacketed cotton rubber-lined hose, 600 feet of 1½-inch hose, 14-foot roof ladder, 24-foot extension ladder, nozzle sets, pump tank extinguishers, hard and soft suction equipment, forcible entry tools and other miscellaneous items usually carried on a pumper. There will be room for a 100-gallon booster tank on the front-mounted pumper units.

list of recommended equipment for fire watchers. Specifications have been approved, for example, for a 4-gallon pump tank unit for use in fighting incendiary bomb fires which will be the American prototype of British stirrup pump. This will be a sound and well constructed fire fighting unit limited only by restrictions on certain critical materials and metals. Specifications are also being prepared for a cheaper unit of the same general sort which can be manufactured for purchase by civilians.

LAST month OCD invited to Washington a distinguished and representative group of fire chiefs to review the auxiliary fire fighting program to date and to offer comments and criticisms. This group unanimously approved the plans of OCD to date. The group of chiefs included Patrick J. Walsh of New York, Samuel Pope of Boston, W. H. Alderson of Los Angeles, Jesse Fisher of Annapolis, E. J. Cannon of Norfolk, Stephen Porter of Washington, Andrew Callahan of Harrison, N. J., President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and J. N. Sullivan of Utica, Chairman of the N.F.P.A. Committee on Municipal Fire Apparatus.

Uniform Air Raid Signals Announced by OCD

STATE authorities in the Second Region including the States of New York, Delaware, and New Jersey, have agreed to adopt the uniform method of sounding air raid signals suggested by the U. S. Office of Civilian Defense, according to a recent announcement by James M. Landis, OCD Director. Similar action had already been taken by authorities in the First Region comprising the six New England States. Other sections of the United States are expected to similarly adopt the suggested uniform signals.

The uniform signal when given by air horns or whistles consists of short blasts. When given by sirens the warning signal consists of fluctuating note of two-minutes duration with varying intervals between signals to conform with the mechanical limitations of the instrument.

The all-clear signal consists of a long, continuous blast or a note given at a steady pitch.

Auxiliary Firemen Protected Under Minnesota Compensation Laws

VOLUNTEER firemen serving with or without pay during the war emergency will come under the Minnesota compensation insurance act, Assistant Attorney General Edward J. Devitt has ruled in answer to a request from a village attorney. This will affect Minnesota towns and villages which carry compensation coverage on their firemen.

"Our supreme court has held that paid volunteer firemen are entitled to the benefit of the workmen's compensation act," said Mr. Devitt. "In our opinion, the supreme court, if called upon to do so, would hold emergency volunteer firemen who serve without pay entitled to the benefits of the act, and that their 'daily wage' for the purpose of fixing their compensation should be computed according to Sec. 4325, supra." (The usual wage paid for similar services in municipalities where such services are performed by paid employees.)

Fireboats and tugs battling blaze aboard the "Lafayette" (the former French luxury liner "Normandie") on the afternoon of February 9th, before the great vessel capsized from the weight of water thrown upon the blaze.

Nassau and Suffolk Counties of New York Plan Mutual Aid

THE Nassau County (New York) Fire Commission in a recent bulletin announced that a committee representing the fire departments of the County has agreed to enter into mutual aid arrangements with adjoining areas of Suffolk County. Routes have been established and tentative running cards prepared to provide up to fifteen engine companies with groups of three companies answering each call. Other apparatus would be special called if necessary.

DEFENSE NOTES

New Hampshire. The Auxiliary Firemen's Division of the State Council of Defense has issued a bulletin intended for posting in industrial plants containing instructions for industrial plant protection under incendiary bomb attacks.

New York. The New York State Committee on Fire Defense has submitted a State-Wide Emergency Fire Mobilization and Mutual Aid Plan to Governor Lehman who has approved it. It requests the appointment of a state emergency fire administrator upon recommendation of the New York State Committee on Fire Defense and sets up 16 fire defense zones which include territorial districts of the state, exclusive of the City of New York. Defense councils are proposed for each fire defense zone to prepare a detailed plan for the defense of the zone including arrangements for mutual aid. The plan provides for direction of fire department operations by a zone chief and provides for proper coordination with forest fire fighting as well as municipal fire fighting facilities.

Pennsylvania. Charles E. Clark, Chief Fire Warden, State Council of Defense of Pennsylvania, announced last month that the state has been divided into 35 zones with a deputy chief fire warden and a training officer in each. Pennsylvania's fire defense plans include the recruiting and training of 95,000 or more auxiliary firemen.

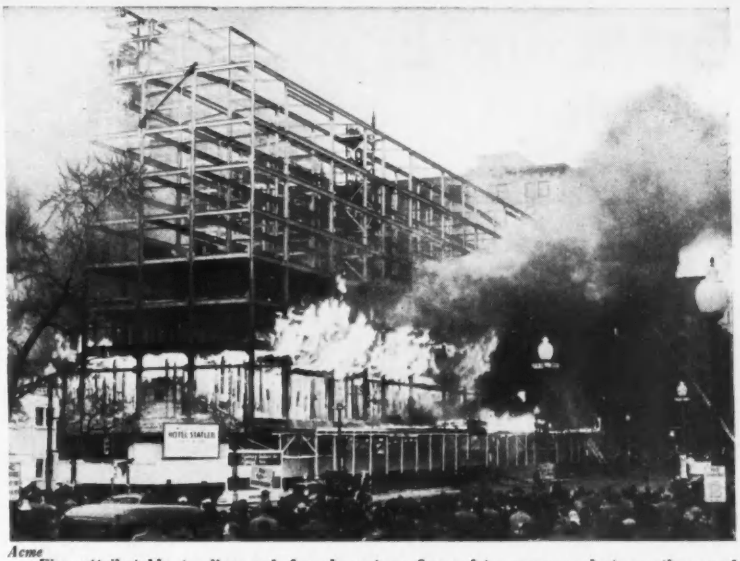
Indiana. Clem Smith, State Fire Marshal of Indiana, reported last month that the training of a minimum of 10,000 auxiliary firemen in Indiana has started. Fire training instructors, 590 in number, have just completed an accredited training course conducted by the Indiana State Fire Marshal and Purdue University

Fire Training School. Local fire defense training schools will be set up in each city and town of any size in the state.

Iowa. Fire departments of the state were urged in the Iowa Fire School News Letter last month to establish plans for mutual aid and to speed the training program for regular firemen so that the organization of auxiliary fire fighting forces could be carried out throughout the state. A minimum of training for auxiliary firemen consisting of an introductory 24-hour firemen's training course was recommended. State Fire Marshal John Strohm is asking all Iowa fire departments to assist in a state-wide survey of the facilities available for fire protection.

Kansas. The Technical Advisory Committee for Fire Defense has prepared an outline for the organization of local auxiliary fire forces in Kansas. It is also conducting a general survey and listing of fire protection equipment for the state. Chief H. G. Lindgren of McPherson is Chairman of this committee and Clyde Latchem, State Fire Marshal, is Secretary.

Texas. Fire defense coordinators and assistant coordinators have been appointed by Marvin Hall, State Fire Coordinator of Texas, for 26 defense districts into which the state has been divided. Major G. C. Hawley, Chief Engineer, Texas Fire Insurance Department, is in general charge of these defense organizations. The district coordinators and assistants are leading fire chiefs in their respective districts.



Acme

Fire attributable to disregard for elementary fire safety measures last month caused damage estimated at $500,000 to the Statler Hotel under construction in Washington, D. C. The blaze, believed caused by a heating salamander, was first seen smouldering in tarpaulins used in construction operations. Before the fire department could respond from a station less than a block away, the flames were roaring through wooden forms used to support concrete. Due to wartime restrictions there may be considerable difficulty in promptly replacing structural steel members damaged in the five alarm blaze. Completion of the hotel is obviously delayed several months. Fireproofed canvas and construction forms would have made such a loss extremely unlikely. There are no indications that any adequate first aid equipment had been provided to safeguard the construction operation.

RECOLLECTIONS OF GROWING PAINS!

The following story contributed by Chief W. H. Pauley, of the Basin, Wyoming, Fire Department, (Member N.F.P.A.), appeared recently in the Wyoming Republican Rustler, a weekly newspaper published at Basin. The story was written by Charles A. Hime as a review of reminiscences by charter members of the Basin Fire Department at a dinner given in their honor. Mr. Hime is one of the charter members of the fire company.

THE first Volunteer Fire Company was organized in Basin in 1904. That was the year they laid the two-inch main up from the new pumping station on the river. There were two fire plugs to protect the business district and out in the residence district some houses had a ¾ inch pipe sticking up in their front yard. That ¾ inch pipe with a bright brass spigot on it, was a mark of distinction and told "who was who." Before that time the town didn't need any fire fighters. Enterprising men hauled water to the townspeople in 5 gallon cans at a substantial cost and in case of fire it was cheaper to "let her burn."

But in 1904 along with the modern municipal water works came the first volunteer fire department. Realizing the importance of fire fighting equipment, the city fathers strained their financial resources to supply the needs of the fire fighters. And soon they appeared on the street with a bright red cart which carried four or five lengths of hose. And ever present in the determined faces of those fire fighting heroes, as they laboriously dragged their cart on practice runs, was the slogan "bring on your fire."

It was about this time that someone suggested the need of a fire bell. The popping of six-shooters as a fire alarm had become out-moded. A bell to call out the organized volunteers was a dire necessity. Contribution to a fund for this purpose was suggested and finally seven saloon men agreed to give $25.00 each for the cause, and soon a large mail-order house delivered the bell.

Although the bell belonged to the saloon men, it was up to the town council to provide a suitable tower for it.

Jack Hanlon was town marshal, night watchman, chief of police, city clerk, water commissioner and part-time justice of the peace, but he managed to build the bell-tower during his spare time. It stood on the corner where the Federal Building now is, was an architectural duplication of the Egyptian Pyramids, with the new bell proudly poised at the peak. The under part was used by the town engineers to shelter their mechanized units—a couple of shovels and a pick.

All set! Ready to go! Everybody waited impatiently for a fire.

And when it came, how that bell did clang out the alarm. And down through the years it continued to call out the firemen for action. After each fire the entire populace would gather in the saloon to recuperate after their strenuous efforts, while the philanthropists who had magnanimously furnished the town with the fire bell would modestly accept praise and wait on the rush of customers.

Since the installation of the modern fire alarm, the old bell passed on to the junk pile at the municipal power plant. Recently the fire boys appointed a committee, headed by the Fire Chief, whose duty it was to secure the old bell and make of it a memorial. But, too late—the city manager had sold the bell to a church group in a neighboring town. This is irony, with a vengeance. The good old bell that clanged for the saloons in Basin is now sweetly calling the good people of nearby Worland to worship.

Grass and Brush Fires Sabotage Fire Defense

Harold M. Lambert—Acme Photo

GRASS and brush fires present, in many communities, a heavy load upon the fire department. This year as never before steps should be taken to reduce this load. It is important to have the full strength of each department remain unimpaired to ensure the best possible fire defense for each community. This cannot be done if much of the fire department equipment is out on grass and brush fire duty for long periods of time.

In past years during the dry "fire weather" that precedes the budding of spring foliage, many fire departments have been "run ragged" answering brush fire calls. Fire stations have been stripped of their equipment, for hours at a time. It is not uncommon to find that ladder trucks are the only apparatus in quarters to answer regular building fires. Even the largest cities frequently have to reduce the assignments sent to alarms, and move men and apparatus out of the high value district to handle the pesky grass fires in suburban areas.

Further, springtime is the season during which great conflagrations have occurred most frequently. In view of these facts it is not surprising that many experienced firemen hold the opinion that the spring brush fire season would be a most favorable time for any attempts at sabotage by fire.

When it is recalled that in many areas, grass and brush fires make up the greatest bulk of the calls answered by the fire department throughout the entire year, it seems hard to comprehend the failure of many communities to provide anywhere near adequate equipment for handling such fires.

Far too many communities wear out costly heavy pumpers on work that can best be done by light-weight speedy brush fire trucks such as that illustrated below. Such equipment can be driven to places inaccessible to the heavier apparatus and with it a few men can do much more effective work than a larger crew without the proper equipment.

Some communities have equipped their brush fire trucks with radios so that they can be dispatched from one grass fire to another without waiting for the apparatus to return to quarters. In many cases one or two men can be dropped off at a small blaze with appropriate equipment while the apparatus proceeds to a subsequent call.

It is almost unpatriotic at the present time to wear out good cotton rubber lined hose by dragging it through the brush to put out fires that could be handled better by water pump tanks, back-pack extinguishers, or portable pump equipment.

Indicative of the importance of the matter of control of brush and forest fires to the defense program, is the action of the Auxiliary Firemen's Division of the New Hampshire State Defense Council in organizing an auxiliary forest fire protective service in that state. In a bulletin outlining the organization of this protective service it is pointed out that forests are an excellent target for incendiary bombs and that resulting fires could create a severe problem for the normal fire forces as well as develop panic and confusion in the general public. Such fires would endanger transportation, highway, power and other public service systems, and disrupt the defense program.

LIKE every other type of fire, the brush and grass fire is best controlled by common-sense fire prevention precautions. Here are some suggestions which have proved helpful in several communities:

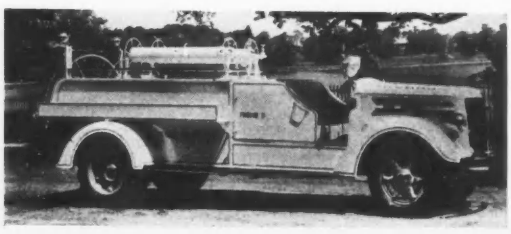
1. It is most important to secure public cooperation in controlling this hazard. This may be solicited by appropriate appeals in local newspapers and over radio stations.

2. The police department patrol cars should make it a point to warn all persons found burning materials in the open that permits are required and that proper safeguards such as fire extinguishers and garden hose should be at hand.

3. Many suburban communities require rubbish burning to be done in incinerators of a type approved by the local fire department. This eliminates the type of incinerator which consists of widely spaced wire through which burning material escapes readily.

4. The fire department should organize a brush fire patrol during danger periods, particularly over week-ends when city folks who do not appreciate the seriousness of the hazard are likely to be driving through the suburbs. One or two men in a fire department car carrying appropriate warnings should patrol highways adjacent to woodlands warning persons seen throwing smoking materials out of cars and also cautioning campers and picnickers. While the patrol car would probably carry one or two pump tank extinguishers, the patrol has been found to be most helpful as a fire prevention measure rather than a fire fighting unit.

5. One other important suggestion that should not be overlooked is that in many cases, firemen can burn over grass and brush lands that may seriously expose buildings before the dangerous fire weather starts. In some cases volunteer or call firemen are hired for this work by property owners and paid for the time worked. Also, if a fire starts under favorable conditions, many fire departments allow the fire to burn over grass lands before extinguishing it.



Typical grass fire auxiliary truck, carrying 300 gallons of water, a 200-gallon booster pump, 500 feet of ¾-inch hose, a 1,200 foot reel of 1½-inch hose at the rear of the hose body, and back-pack pump tank extinguishers. Space is provided for a portable fire pump.

Full Dress for VICTORY

A new color trim to replace the chrome-plate is a part of YOUR contribution to insure VICTORY. No sacrifice in performance of your fire engine has been necessary—yet YOUR cooperation has made available such critical materials as nickel, chromium, copper and stainless steel for production of armor and equipment for our armed forces.

One item—nickel—formerly used as the under plating on chrome plate trim on American LaFrance fire fighting apparatus (for 12 months production) is sufficient to properly alloy 50,000 pounds of armor plate. Yes—YOU are insuring VICTORY when ordering your fire engine in war dress.

The full productive capacity of American-LaFrance-Foamite Corporation is being devoted to defense needs and fire apparatus is being produced utilizing all of our resources and facilities, that YOU may have the protection against fire that may be needed.

The **extra** performance and reserve capacity of American LaFrance fire engines is proven in service every day. For **dependable** fire protection for YOUR community insist on American LaFrance equipment.

AMERICAN-LAFRANCE-FOAMITE CORPORATION

Engineers and Manufacturers

ELMIRA, N. Y.

Use of two short roof ladders to form a "stile" to bridge a fence. Scene was an industrial plant fire in Baltimore.

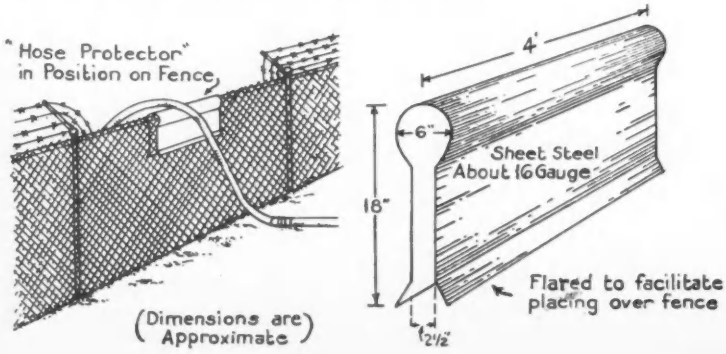
Getting Over Fences Part Of The Fire Fighting Job

FIREMEN sometimes must be able literally to surmount obstacles in order to fight fires. One such obstacle frequently encountered is a high wire fence topped with barbed wire that is healthy for neither man nor for fire hose. Unless some form of special protection is provided, fire hose may be seriously damaged when it is necessary to drag it over such high wire fences as those usually placed around manufacturing plants these days to keep out saboteurs.

N.F.P.A. Member Russell W. Gieseler, Engineer, Eastern Underwriters Inspection Bureau, thinks that readers of VOLUNTEER FIREMEN may be interested in the solution to this problem worked out by the fire department of Warren, Pa. This solution has the advantage of not adding an extra load of heavy or costly equipment to be placed on the fire apparatus.

To bridge fences the Warren Fire Department carries two short roof ladders such as would be found on any ladder truck and on most pumpers. The other equipment needed for the job consists of a pair of wire cutters for disposing of the barbed wire usually found at the top of industrial plant fences, and a sheet metal "hose protector" designed by the firemen.

Upon reaching the fire the two short roof ladders are used to form a "stile" to permit the firemen to get over the fence. The barbed wire at the top of the fence is cut and the metal guard is dropped over the fencing to serve as a hose roller.



N.F.P.A. Guide for Training Auxiliary Firemen

TO help local officials responsible for training auxiliary firemen plan a logical and adequate training program for auxiliaries, the N.F.P.A. Committee on Firemen's Training has just issued a "Guide for Training Auxiliary Firemen," 14 pages. This report is presented as a preliminary advance release of the report the Committee is to present to the N.F.P.A. Annual Meeting in May. It is available in pamphlet form from the N.F.P.A. at 10 cents a copy.

OTHER NEW TEXTS

MUNICIPAL Support of Volunteer Fire Companies, 24 pages, issued by the Institute of Local and State Government, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. A study of the organization, operation, and support of volunteer fire departments in the Keystone State.

THE Philadelphia Evening Bulletin has published an instruction manual for air raid wardens. This is a 32-page booklet prepared by the Philadelphia Police College and the Institute of Local and State Government, University of Pennsylvania, for the Philadelphia Council of Defense.

THE Indiana State Defense Council, 612 Board of Trade Building, Indianapolis, recently issued texts entitled "Organization of Auxiliary Firemen," 6 pages, and "Training Guide on Incendiary Bombs, War Gases," 11 pages. Both texts were issued in cooperation with the Indiana State Fire Marshal Department and the Purdue University Fire Service Training School. The text on auxiliary firemen includes the matters of recruiting, organization and training, and gives a method of figuring the size of an auxiliary fire department for a community. The other booklet contains material for teaching a 3 hour course on incendiary bomb control and a 2 hour course on gas defense.

"AIR RAIDS—What You Must Know—What You Must Do" (revised edition), official British instructions to civilians, obtainable in the United States from the British Library of Information, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, 64 pages, 10c.

"RELAYING Water at Fires," by J. B. Wilkinson, Elwin C. Knowlton, and Harry H. Wolff. 19 pages. Educational Bulletin of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Daniel B. Tierney, Secretary, Arlington, Mass.

AIR RAID WHISTLES THAT WARN!

Fig. 114—VALVE

Fig. 109—WITH VALVE

The Buckeye Plain Brass Whistle is furnished with or without a valve in the base. The stem is securely screwed into the base and supports the bell which can be screwed up or down for adjustment.

Fig. 111—WITHOUT VALVE

Fig. 110—WITH VALVE

Buckeye Chime Whistles are also furnished with or without a valve. The bell is cast in one piece so there is no possibility of the parts wearing loose.

Fig. 112—WITHOUT VALVE

Buckeye Junior Whistles are so designed that they can be promptly installed on any make of car which may be pressed into emergency service.

Fig. 935—AUTO EXHAUST WHISTLE

Why Risk Disaster in YOUR City?

If the need should come **suddenly** to warn everybody in your city of an air raid, there is just one way to do it instantly—USE WHISTLES.

Buckeye Whistles are compelling air-raid signals. They are installed in many of the country's largest cities for just such an emergency. Actual tests show that their shrill, penetrating, unmistakable blasts **get people off the streets . . . and warn them in their homes!** They can be operated by steam or compressed air on factories, public buildings, apartments and many other places.

The Buckeye Junior Exhaust Whistles are used on Chiefs' cars, Air-Raid Wardens' cars, Ambulances, Police and other emergency cars. Fig. 936 Whistles (larger) are used on heavy fire apparatus.

Write or wire for complete information.

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1¾ and 2½ Gal. Sizes

The Instant is not only popular for fire department use but also for private protection. Operating efficiently at a temperature of 40° below zero, it will extinguish rapidly all classes of fires including small fires in gasoline, oil, grease, paint, etc. It is the most efficient extinguisher to use on fires in rubber.
Made also in the 20- and 40-gallon wheel type.

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N. F. P. A. Membership

INDIVIDUAL membership in the National Fire Protection Association costs $10 per year. The membership plan for the Volunteer Firemen's Section is designed to give each fire company the advantages of N.F.P.A. membership. The fire company, as a member, receives at its headquarters a complete set of all regular N.F.P.A. literature, including the *Quarterly* magazine, as issued. In addition, as a special service to the Volunteer Firemen's Section, each fire company holding N.F.P.A. membership is entitled to have copies of the magazine VOLUNTEER FIREMEN sent to the home addresses of 10 firemen each month. If more than 10 firemen want to receive the magazine, an additional $1.00 should be sent in with the membership fee for each fireman in excess of 10 enrolled.

Because of the large amount of material mailed to members, not less than $10 can be accepted from any company.

Fire Alarm Systems as Channels for Civilian Defense Messages

By E. J. McCarthy

**Sales Manager, Gamewell Company
Newton Upper Falls, Massachusetts**

Digested from a paper presented before a meeting of the New England Section, International Municipal Signal Association, held in Boston, January 28-29, to study problems of municipal signaling under war emergency conditions. Mr. McCarthy's paper should be of interest to communities having a fire alarm box system or contemplating the installation of such a system. It shows how the fire alarm system can be utilized to transmit signals for civilian defense purposes under air raid conditions.

MUNICIPAL signaling systems are primarily for communication in emergencies and have had built into them a quality of materials and service that is intended to best serve under such conditions. The design of these systems is such that in the event of service interruption, repairs may be made quickly by municipal maintenance crews.

The heart of any communication system is its central control room. The control center of the municipal signaling system is purposely located away from the congestion of commercial activities. Frequently it will be found in a park already effectively screened by trees and shrubbery: its purpose unrecognized by even the passerby. It is therefore unlikely to be of itself an easy target for the enemy.

The fire department is the presently organized means which can be expected to be most effective in protecting against the incidents accompanying enemy air raids. What the Signal Corps is to the Army, the Fire Alarm System is to the fire fighting force.

In the flush of first moment excitement many communities have established their local report centers in locations that are not particularly suitable for the purpose. What better place for a report center than the fire alarm headquarters? In the larger cities where there is more than one report center the fire station serving the area should be used.

Fire alarm boxes are well distributed and the lines run on practically every street. Pumping station, gas works, electric power station and other utilities are now already connected to the fire alarm system.

The fire alarm system has the advantage over both police reporting system and public telephones in that the lines are under constant electrical supervision so that service interruption is automatically indicated and corrective measures may be taken immediately. In the other two systems failure is not discovered until called upon to serve.

Perhaps the most important service that the fire alarm system can render is the relaying by code signal as well as by voice all emergency messages throughout a large area by means of the 'mutual aid' connection existing between municipalities.

For example, an air raid warning issued from the Boston fire alarm headquarters could be announced throughout an area of approximately 270 square miles and embracing 27 cities and towns in the matter of approximately 30 seconds as compared to the cumbersome arrangement presently used of relaying from one reporting center to another through the public telephone system.

The fire alarm system now includes in many instances audible signaling devices which are ideally suitable for air raid alarm purposes. Additional audible signals may be easily controlled by the present means. It is suggested that in addition to the providing of primary air raid alarm facilities on municipal buildings, fire stations, etc., industrial establishments with available sources of compressed air or high pressure steam be equipped with audible alarm signals all under control of the fire alarm system. The use of the fire alarm system for controlling air raid alarms provides simultaneous and synchronized signals on all alarm devices in the area.

One of the most important problems is the prompt spreading of an alarm of air attack to the public schools so that children may be dismissed or taken to protective shelters. Every school building in the large cities and in most towns is already directly connected to the fire alarm system. It is the work of but a few moments to provide an audible alarm signal in the office of the principal of the school so that he may be promptly notified of an impending raid. Similar connections may be extended to hospitals, theatres, and other places of importance.

Every district post should be equipped with one or more portable telephone sets by means of which communication may be established from the fire alarm box or other designated location. Most fire alarm systems are now provided with central office telephone equipment.

Canadian Fire Officials Plan Annual Meetings

THE 1942 Annual Meetings of the Dominion Fire Prevention Association and the Association of Canadian Fire Marshals will be held at the Seigniory Club, Quebec, on May 18-20, 1942, according to an announcement by Dominion Fire Commissioner W. L. Clairmont, Secretary for both Associations. The Seigniory Club is located about 40 miles east of Ottawa in the Province of Quebec.

Rosedale, Pa., Firemen Have Unique Fire Location Indicator

THE Rosedale Volunteer Fire Department of Verona, Pennsylvania, (Member N.F.P.A.), has its own unique method of directing company members who have missed the apparatus, to the exact location of a fire. Just inside the fire station is an electric fire alarm indicator board showing the name of every street and road in the company's district. Behind each location is a small electric bulb controlled by an individual switch. The first person to arrive at the station following an alarm gets the location over the telephone and immediately throws the proper switch to light up the location of the fire on the indicator board. If a volunteer arrives after the apparatus has pulled away he glances through the main door of the engine house and gets the exact location of the fire without delay.

The Rosedale firemen made the board themselves and report that the cost of materials was small.

Any fire department desiring further details should write to Charles W. Alcorn, Rosedale Volunteer Fire Department, Verona, Pennsylvania.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

American - LaFrance - Foamite Corp., Elmira, N. Y., recently issued a release describing their new "Evertite" foam mixing chamber designed for protection of modern oil storage tanks of the pressure type. The mixing chamber has an inspection cap that can be removed without releasing tank pressure. A vaporproof glass sealing diaphragm is so installed as to prevent vapors in oil storage tanks from entering the body of the mixing chamber or from entering chemical solution lines.

The Lake Erie Chemical Co., Cleveland, Ohio, has issued an illustrated folder entitled "Training Material for Home Defense," describing training candles producing smoke and tear gas, and others simulating magnesium, thermite and phosphorus bombs.

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NEWTON UPPER FALLS, MASSACHUSETTS

The M·S·A ALL·SERVICE GAS MASK with the ALL-VISION FACEPIECE

INDISPENSABLE to the WARTIME EQUIPMENT of the FIRE SERVICE!

With record peacetime popularity in fire department service, the famous M.S.A. All-Service Gas Mask is ideally equipped to meet the demands of firefighting safety in war conditions. Furnishing U. S. Bureau of Mines-approved protection against all industrial smokes, poisonous gases and vapors (including carbon monoxide) encountered singly or in combination, this efficient mask offers the *plus* values of speed in application, easy wearing comfort, unhampered working freedom, and extra wide-angled vision permitted by the M.S.A. All-Vision Facepiece. Check the details in Bulletin No. EA-6—free on request!

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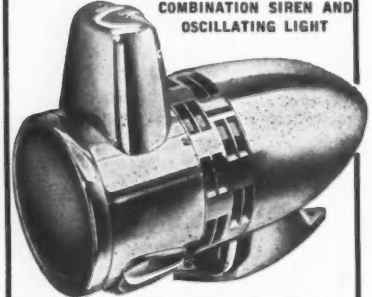

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PYRENE PRIZE LETTER CONTEST

"I ENJOY very much your contest letters appearing in VOLUNTEER FIREMEN and wish to add my story to your collection. Being a fireman I can readily appreciate the value of your highlighting the accounts of some of the hundreds of fires that are stopped every day with approved fire extinguishers." So writes Tommy Langston, of Paducah, Kentucky, this month's first prize winner in the contest sponsored cooperatively by the Pyrene Manufacturing Company of Newark, N. J., and VOLUNTEER FIREMEN to bring forth the lessons which may be learned from actual fires of the value of fire extinguishers.

FIRST PRIZE—$10.00

TOMMY LANGSTON
No. 1 Fire Station, Paducah, Kentucky

Cut Blaze to Nothing

Answering a call to a truck terminal one night we found a trailer type truck of about ten tons capacity with its fuel tank ablaze. The fuel line had broken just above the tank and the gasoline flowing down on the exhaust started a real blaze. I jerked a 2½-gallon foam extinguisher off the truck and started to work. Another fireman turned a 2-quart carbon tetrachloride extinguisher on the blaze. Together we cut the blaze from twenty feet in length to nothing in about two minutes. I don't think there has been a quicker or better stop made here. The truck terminal covered about a quarter of a city block and surely would have been ablaze in another few minutes.

SECOND PRIZE—$3.00

BERT L. KIRKWOOD
Provo City Fire Department,
Provo, Utah

This Was a Smoky One!

It seemed quite a drowsy day till the alarm rang out that afternoon. The captain shouted out the address and we were off on another run. This was a smoky one—so different from our usual small fires. In this one we lived up to our nick-name "smoke eaters." Reaching the address given we could see a billow of smoke coming from an upstairs window. Grabbing the 2½-gallon soda-acid extinguisher from the truck we made our way to the stair landing on the second floor. On opening the bedroom door a gust of hot smoke and gases hit us in the face and we were compelled to drop to the floor where the air was clearer. We made our way into the room hugging close to the floor. We could then see the glow of fire on the other side of the room. We tipped over the extinguisher and quickly extinguished the blaze. We withdrew for a lungful of fresh air and then returned and ventilated the room. Due to the effectiveness of the extinguisher the loss was confined to the bedding and mattress that was burning—thus saving the owner from a considerable potential loss.

THIRD PRIZE—$2.00

F. W. WYNN, *Chief*
Fire Department, Hobbs, New Mexico

Barbecue Pit Ablaze!

A call came in at 1:30 P. M. January 9, from Grollman's Grocery and Market, in which he stated he had a small fire in the barbecue pit. The pit was an insulated oven located in a separate room between the store and the manager's living quarters in the rear. The oven had five pans, each about 5 inches deep. The grease had boiled over and set the whole oven afire. The driver responded with the apparatus and I responded from my home and met him there. We had just a little more fire than we had bargained for. The driver had started to work with a 1-quart carbon tetrachloride extinguisher but the stove was so heavily insulated and so hot that he could not get the fire out. We got a 2½-gallon foam extinguisher off the truck. That did the job up in grand style saving the stove and building.

CONTEST RULES

1. Contestants in the Pyrene Prize Letter Contest must be members of their local fire department.

2. Letters are to describe actual experiences where an approved fire extinguisher of any make has saved lives or property.

3. Trade names may be used but will be deleted in publication. Publishers reserve the right to edit winning letters to permit publication.

4. Each contestant automatically vouches for the truth of the facts presented from his own or others' experience.

5. Only one letter may be submitted each month.

6. Letters must be legibly written in ink or typewritten on white paper, one side only. Preference will be given to letters not over 250 words in length.

7. Letters received after the 8th day of the month will be judged in following month's competition.

8. Monthly prizes in cash will be: 1st, $10.00; 2nd, $3.00; and 3rd, $2.00.

9. Address contest letters to Pyrene Prize Letter Contest, National Fire Protection Association, 60 Batterymarch St., Boston, Mass.

A Guide for Training Auxiliary Firemen

Advance Publication of the Report of the N.F.P.A. Committee on Firemen's Training

The assigned duty of a fire department is that of rescue work and major fire defense. Due to the possible extent of fires that may be set by incendiary bombs during an air raid, it will be necessary to supplement the regular fire department with carefully selected and trained auxiliary firemen. Since the auxiliaries serve to supplement the regular fire service, their job will be to do the more-or-less elementary operations now done by the regulars, leaving the regulars for the more difficult jobs.

To meet these training requirements the Guide for Training Auxiliary Firemen outlines the following three stages of training:

1. Initial Training: To prepare auxiliary firemen for immediate use in case of an emergency.
2. Advanced Training: To prepare auxiliaries for more hazardous fire fighting operations.
3. Supplemental Training: To further increase the efficiency of the auxiliaries.

In addition to the above, the text outlines the type of tests that should be given auxiliary firemen. It also contains an excellent bibliography including training texts and drill manuals that would be useful in carrying out the program outlined in the training guide.

14 Pages, Single Copy Price 10 Cents

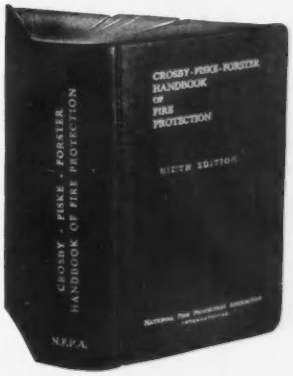
CROSBY—FISKE—FORSTER HANDBOOK OF FIRE PROTECTION

The Ninth Edition of the Handbook of Fire Protection is by far the most comprehensive yet issued. At least thirty percent of the text has been completely re-written. There are dozens of new tables, charts, diagrams and illustrations.

In keeping with the purpose of a reference book, all information is presented clearly, concisely and as far as possible in non-technical language. More than 100 men who are recognized authorities in the various branches of the fire protection engineering profession aided in the task of preparing this edition.

The Ninth Edition of the Handbook was issued last year with a printing of 5,000 copies expected to last for five years. Already the large demand has necessitated a second printing.

NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONAL
60 Batterymarch Street, Boston, Mass.



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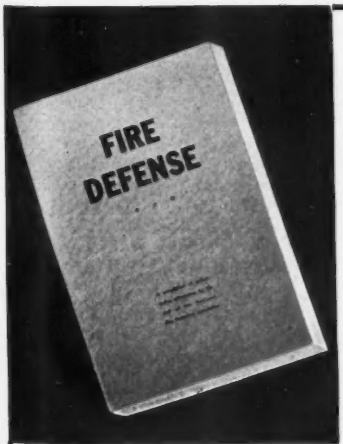

232 pages, 154 illustrations, price $1.50 postpaid

FIRE DEFENSE

Vitally Important to Every American Fire Department!

"Invaluable is the word that best describes the copious and excellent contents of this volume compiled by experts in the light of what has happened during two years of war. . . . Its technical background is excellent, its arrangement is clear and concise, and I must again bear testimony to the admirable illustrations."

(From an 8-page review of FIRE DEFENSE, written by former Chief Pordage of Edinburgh, Scotland, Past President of The Institution of Fire Engineers, a British organization.)

PART I.—FIRE FROM THE AIR

PART II.—SABOTAGE

PART III.—ORGANIZATION FOR CIVILIAN DEFENSE

PART IV.—FIRE DEPARTMENTS & FIRE FIGHTING

PART V.—COMMUNICATIONS

PART VI.—DEFENSE PRODUCTION

INDIAN FIRE PUMPS

LONG used by city, rural and volunteer fire departments for all manner of smaller fires, **INDIAN FIRE PUMPS** now play a big part in CIVILIAN DEFENSE. Official tests have proven their outstanding advantages for fighting incendiary bombs. From coast to coast fire departments are rapidly increasing their supply of **INDIANS** for this vitally important work. Are you prepared? **ORDER NOW.** London reported as many as 530 fires from air attack raging in the city at one time. *It must not happen here.*

Building, Rubbish, Roof, Grass Fires Should be Fought with INDIAN FIRE PUMPS. Off the truck and into action! When you use **INDIANS** there is no hose to lay—no chemicals to bother with. Unbreakable carrying racks hold **INDIANS** in place on trucks or cars. Many **INDIANS** are in use after ten years service. Get ready for spring fires—*be sure you have plenty of* **INDIAN FIRE PUMPS.**

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